

Response After Final
Application No. 001574
Attorney Docket No. 09/725,147

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. No amendment has been proposed. It is respectfully submitted that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated February 23, 2006.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730, of record) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534, of record).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicant's argument that while Nagasaki et al. disclose to temporarily write to a memory card a plurality of frames of still image data obtained by successive picture taking operations and subject each frame of the still image data to a data processing such as data compression after ending the successive picture taking operations, Nagasaki et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality

of frames of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations, the Examiner takes the position in item 1 of the Action that:

The examiner notes that as claimed, "a main image coder for coding a single frame" can be equated to the A/D converter 16 in figure 1 of Nagasaki. For example, every time an image is captured by Nagasaki, the image will be converted to a digital domain (i.e. coded) by the A/D converter and stored in memory card 34 to be processed after the ending of successive picture taking operations.

However, the present invention concerns recording to a recording medium a plurality of frames of main image data and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data in a coded state, and therefore, the subject of a coding process is digital image data.

In contrast, the A/D converter 16 shown in Figure 1 of Nagasaki et al. is for converting an analogue image signal which is output from the CCD 12 and amplified by the amplifier 15 to digital image data, and therefore, the A/D converter 16 is extremely different from the coder of the present invention which codes the digital image data so as to reduce a data amount.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's assertion that "a main image coder for coding a single frame" can be equated to the A/D converter 16 in figure 1 of Nagasaki is inappropriate and lacks merit.

Response After Final
Application No. 001574
Attorney Docket No. 09/725,147

In other words, the A/D converter 16 of Nagasaki fails to create a single frame of coded main image data which is reduced in a data amount, as called for in claim 1. That is, Nagasaki fails to disclose or fairly suggest that the conversion of an analog signal to a digital signal reduces the data amount of an image.

Furthermore, as clearly stated in the Response dated November 22, 2005, neither Nagasaki et al. nor Anderson teaches a constitution of the present invention which codes a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data after ending successive picture taking operations.

Accordingly, it is submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from each of the references or a combination thereof, and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

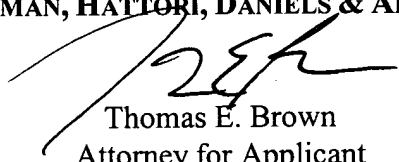
Therefore, in view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response After Final
Application No. 001574
Attorney Docket No. 09/725,147

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,450
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

TEB/jl